

The U.S.A. Welcomes International Students

- Foreign students bring cultural diversity to U.S. colleges and universities and contribute greatly to research, publication, and general student life.
- **Indian students make up the highest percentage of foreign students in U.S. institutions.**
- The U.S. government believes students will return to become leaders in their home country, all the while educating others about U.S. life and culture.

- Number of Indian students in the U.S. for 2008/9 increased by 9% from 94,563 to **103,260***:
 - **15,600** undergraduates
 - **71,019** graduates (incl. masters & PhD programs)
 - **1,755** non-degree
 - **14,886** internship participants
- In Chennai alone, **6943** were granted student visas in 2009.

* **Source: 2009 Institute of International Education's Open Doors Report**

Facts versus Myths

- ▶ There is **NO** limit on the number of Indian students who receive visas.
- ▶ The process of applying for a U.S. visa is **NOT** long and troublesome.
- ▶ If you have family members in the U.S., you **can** still get a visa.
- ▶ To get a visa to the United States you **do not** need to major in sciences (or business), or have a scholarship.

Facts versus Myths

- The U.S. Government strongly **discourages** the use of visa consultants and touts in any application.
- There is **no extra fee** for a student visa other than the standard visa processing fee of \$131 and the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee.
- *Anyone who tells you otherwise is not telling you the truth.*

Facts and Figures

- The U.S. is the premier destination for foreign students.
- Many Indian students receive scholarships.
- Three-quarters of the tuition at public universities is covered by U.S. taxpayers.
- 50 percent of the tuition at private universities is covered by the school's endowment.

What we're looking for:

Are you a legitimate student?

- Bring your DS-160, I-20, all your acceptance letters, SEVIS receipt, and any financial aid documents.
- Why did you choose your university?
- Why did you pick this program or advisor?
- What will this education help you achieve in the future?

What we're looking for

Can you pay for your education?

- If you have a scholarship, the I-20 will show it, but bring written documentation, just in case.
- If relatives are paying for your tuition, you should bring documents supporting that. The officer might not ask for them, but have them on hand.
- Please note: recent large deposits do not help your case.

What we're looking for

Do you intend to return to India after graduation?

- Think through what you want to do with your degree, but do not rehearse your speech.
- Be yourself and explain your personal reasons for choosing that school.

Interview Tips

- **Please do...**

- Tell the truth at all times.
- Listen to the officer's questions.
- Be yourself; make it personal.
- Be courteous and polite.
- Relax.

Interview Tips

■ Please do **NOT**...

- Lie. If you lie and we find out, you will be banned from entering the U.S. for life.
- Rehearse or plan your answers.
- Rely on documents.
- Lash out at the officer if refused.

- **Apply early:** The Consulate recommends interviewing for your visa two to three months before your program starts.
- To make an appointment, contact your local VFS office.
- If travel is urgent, contact Chennai's emergency appointment box at ChennaiNIV@state.gov.

- F, M or J non-immigrant visas cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the beginning of the program date, or start date listed on the Form I-20 (for F or M visas) or DS-2019 (for J visas).
- The \$200 SEVIS fee is required for students and visitors applying for F-1, F-3, M-1, M-3, and J-1 visas. The payment of this fee covers the duration of their program. You may pay your SEVIS fee at www.fmjfee.com
- The fee must be paid and processed before the interview. Please bring your receipt with you to the interview.

Required Documents

- DS-160 filled out online and confirmation sheet
- VFS appointment letter and HDFC receipt
- I-20 or DS-2019 and SEVIS receipt

Suggested documents:

- Proof of enrollment on university letterhead
- Proof of university financial aid
- Bank statements

It is more important that you relate your financial standing in the interview than you rely on documents.

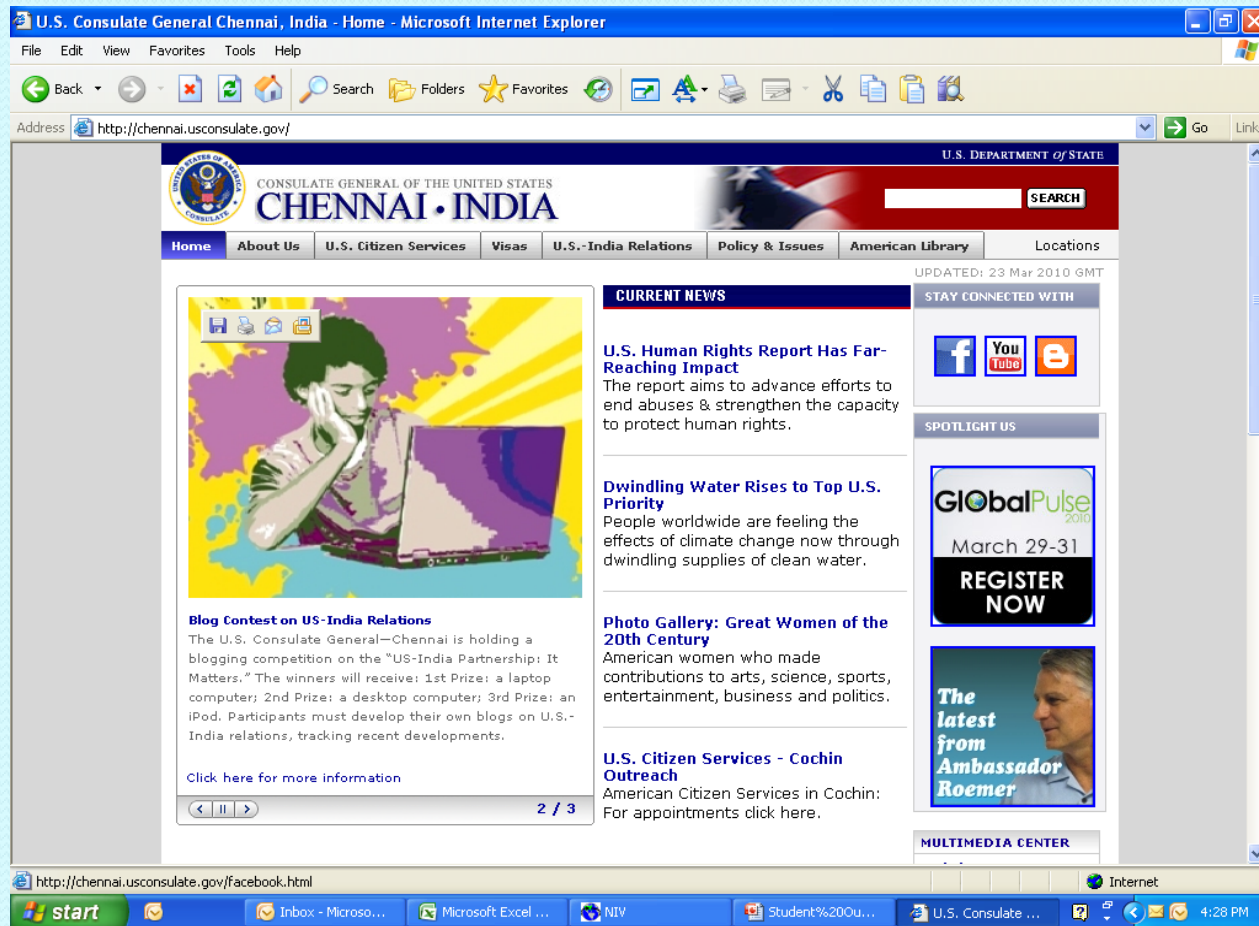
Special Clearances

► **Be prepared...**

- Special clearances are a normal part of visa processing and might delay your travel.
- Interview several weeks or months before your program starts.
- Bring a detailed resume, including a list of your publications.
- Bring a description of the research you will conduct.
- Bring your advisor's biography

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Information

Location:
220 Anna Salai, Gemini Circle
Chennai, India

Fans

6 of 937 fans

See All



U.S. Consulate General Chennai Come have a cup of American Chai on us!
Admission is free, seating is first come, first served @ 6:45pm today



Yellow Frames Film Festival - U.S. Consulate General Chennai, India
chennai.usconsulate.gov

The U.S. Consulate General, Chennai and L.V. Prasad Film and TV Academy, Chennai present Yellow Frames Film Festival highlighting the rise of Indian crossover cinema in the west on March 26 and 27, 2010 Venue: South Indian Film Chamber Theater, Gemini Circle, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 006

Yesterday at 4:38am · Comment · Like · View Feedback (5)



Vinodh Kumar Im on board!!!

Yesterday at 1:30am · Comment · Like · View Feedback (1) · Report



U.S. Consulate General Chennai Join the thousands of individuals from around the world for Global Pulse 2010, a new online global conversation. Voice your opinions, share ideas, and create innovative solutions to social issues facing the global community. Individual discussions will take place within forums and will focus on ten designated topics: I...

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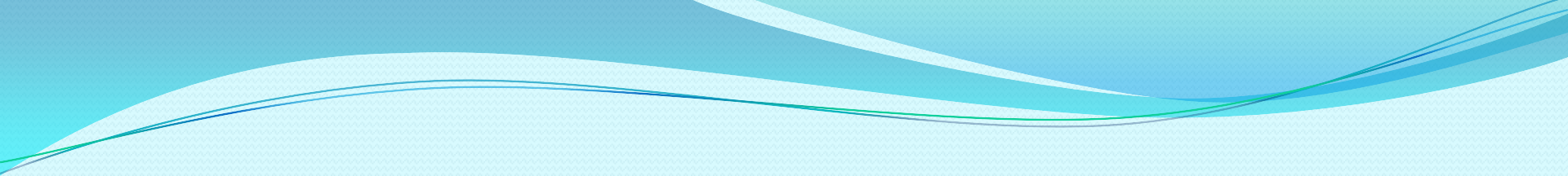
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Tom Kalappurayil Mathew It will facilitate people to the people diplomacy between two great nations.

March 23 at 9:59am · Comment · Like · View Feedback (1) · Report



Thank you!
&
I can now answer your questions.